

REMARKS

In response to the office action mailed April 1, 2003, kindly consider the following remarks. Pursuant to 37 CFR Section 1.112, Applicants request reconsideration of each and every ground set forth in the office action.

The office action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In this amendment, claims 24 and 26 have been amended and claim 25 has been cancelled. Thus claims 1-24 and 26 are pending and are at issue herein. In view of the following remarks, a favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging patentable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner noted in the Office Action summary that claims 10, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 19 are objected to, and would presumably be allowable if rewritten into independent format. At this time, the Applicants have not amended these claims into independent format as Applicants assert that each respective independent claim patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102 AND § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 13, 16, 17 and 22-26 as anticipated by Watanabe (US Pat. No. 6,414,591). The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 as being obvious in view of Watanabe. The Examiner has rejected claim 20 as anticipated by Treyz (US patent number 6,526,335). Finally, the Examiner has rejected claim 21 as being obvious over Treyz in view of Watanabe. In summary, all the aforementioned claims stand rejected based on Watanabe and Treyz, either alone or in combination.

The Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references, alone or in combination, teach every element of each independent claim. Generally speaking,

the present invention, as reflected in the independent claims, is directed to limiting the functionality of the input device based on the position of the output device. To the contrary, neither Watanabe nor Treyz teaches or suggests this aspect of the present invention. This will be described in more detail in the following paragraphs.

In the Watanabe reference, the apparatus disclosed therein is a media unit such as a DVD, CD or cassette player which has a door movable between open and closed positions. The object of the invention is to "prevent a door... from opening when the vehicle is running." (emphasis added) (column 1 lines 35-40). As described in column 3, lines 37-38 and 48-49, and is most clearly seen in figure 3, the prevention of the access door opening (step s112) by disabling the open switch (step s114), occurs only when the vehicle is running (step s110). The position of the door is merely detected (step s102) so that the door may be closed (step s108) when the vehicle is running (step s104) to eliminate an undesirable gap caused by vibrations when the vehicle is running (column 1 lines 27-32). In short, Watanabe merely discloses limiting a specific portion of the input device based solely on whether or not the vehicle is running.

In Treyz, a movable display 230 is provided with a position sensor 232 which may be used to determine when the driver is able to view the display. When viewable by the driver, the content of the display may be restricted to driving-related information such as driving directions. However, when the display 232 is viewable to by the front seat passenger, any information may be displayed. (see column 17 lines 28-40). Accordingly, Treyz is directed solely to the output device, and merely limits its content.

To the contrary, the present invention, as represented in the claims, limits the functionality of the input device based on the position of the output device, which is clearly not disclosed in the cited references. This is most clearly seen in independent claim 22, which requires disabling the input device if the output is not in the second position, as well as enabling the input device if the output device is in the second position. None of the references disclose enabling or disabling the input device based on the position of the output device. Similarly, independent claim 1

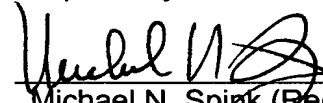
recites that the input device is disabled when the output device is not in the second position. Independent claim 12 recites that the input device is disabled when the switch is not in the activated position, which in turn is based on the position of the output device. Independent claim 16 recited that the input device is disabled when the output device is not in the second position. Independent claim 20 recites that the input device is enabled if the information (displayed by the output device) is not within the zone of vision of an occupant of the driver's seat. Finally, independent claim 24, as amended, recites that the input device is disabled if the output device is not in the second position, and the input device is enabled if the output device is in the second position.

In summary, none of the references teaches each and every element of the claims. Watanabe merely teaches that a portion of the input device may be restricted based on whether or not the vehicle is in motion. Even more removed, Treyz simply discloses that the content of the output device may be restricted based on the position of the output device itself. For these reasons and all of the reasons given above independent claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 22 and 24, as well as all of their respective dependant claims, is respectfully requested.

Applicants have calculated no fees to be presently due in connection with the filing of this Paper. However, Applicants have authorized charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicants' assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

7/1/2003
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☐ 37 C.F.R. 1.34(a)

Attachment: Replacement Sheet